

5. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that said threads comprise at least two twined single threads.

6. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that said threads comprise torsional single threads.

7. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that said threads further comprise a coating applied to at least a partial surface of the thread.

A<sub>1</sub> 8. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 7 wherein the coating is a glue.

9. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that said threads are monofilament threads.

10. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that said threads are provided with a sheath.

11. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 10 wherein the sheath comprises a knit.

12. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 10 wherein the sheath comprises a braiding.

13. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that said threads form part of a structure of threads which are mutually connected by a binding such that the round form of the transport threads is substantially form-retaining during the vacuum technique.

14. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 13 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that said threads form part of a gauze.

15. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 13 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that said threads form part of a web manufactured according to the Rachel technique.

16. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transport threads are formed from at least one of glass, carbon, kevlar, flax, other vegetable, synthetic fibres and combinations thereof.

17. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the strengthening material is formed from at least one of glass, kevlar, flax, other vegetable, synthetic fibres and combinations thereof.

A<sub>1</sub> 18. (Amended) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transport threads are manufactured from at least one of the same materials as the strengthening material.

19. (Amended) A method of forming a resin composite by means of a vacuum technique, comprising providing at least one strengthening layer comprising a plurality of transport threads of substantially round and substantially form-retaining cross-section for guiding the resin therealong, orienting the strengthening layer so that said threads lie substantially in the direction of the resin transport, and applying the resin to the strengthening layer under vacuum to form the composite.

20. (Amended) A composite formed by means of a vacuum technique, comprising at least one strengthening layer embedded in resin wherein said strengthening layer comprises a plurality of transport threads of substantially round and substantially form-retaining cross-section for guiding the resin therealong, and wherein said threads lie substantially in the direction of the resin transport.

A<sub>2</sub> 21. (New) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 wherein said layer is embedded in resin.

22. (New) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 4 wherein the strengthening material at least partly takes the form of multifilaments.

23. (New) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 4 wherein the transport threads lie in the same plane as the rest of the strengthening material.

24. (New) The strengthening layer as claimed in claim 4 wherein the transport threads lie against one or both sides of the strengthening layer.

25. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the transport threads lie in the same plane as the rest of the strengthening material.

A<sub>2</sub> 26. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the transport threads lie against one or both sides of the strengthening layer.

27. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the strengthening material takes at least partly the form of multifilaments.

28. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved by comprising at least one of a plurality of twined single threads, torsional single threads, and monofilament threads.

29. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the transport threads are formed from at least one of glass, carbon, kevlar, flax, other vegetable and synthetic fibres and combinations thereof.

30. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the strengthening material is formed from at least one of glass, kevlar, flax, other vegetable and synthetic fibres and combinations thereof.

31. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein at least one strengthening layer is embedded in resin.

32. (New) A system for forming a composite by means of vacuum through a closed mould comprising:

a strengthening layer; and

means for guiding a resin along the strengthening layer, said strengthening layer comprising substantially round transport threads which lie substantially in the direction of the resin transport, wherein the mould retains its cross-sectional shape.

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